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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

# SAFETY NEWS

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Mike Huckabee, Governor

Vol. 27, No.1 –Spring, 2004

James L. Salkeld, Director

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## ANTHONY FOREST PRODUCTS BECOMES STATE'S FIRST SHARP SAWMILL

**A**nthony Forest Products in Urbana was recognized at a ceremony on February 27 as the first sawmill in the state of Arkansas to reach SHARP status. SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program) is a national recognition and exemption program to reward small employers who have exemplary safety and health management systems.

U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA Region VI Administrator John B. Miles from Dallas and Arkansas Department of Labor Director James L. Salkeld presented plaques and a banner of recognition to the more than 100 employees of Anthony Forest Products. Also participating were State Representative Jodie Mahony, State Representative Joyce Dees, and State Senator Gene Jefferess. Present on behalf of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln and U.S. Senator Mark Pryor were Mr. Ed French and Ms. Tonya Searcy. A number of local officials and Arkansas Department of Labor Safety Administrator Clark Thomas were also present. The employees of the sawmill, which has been in existence since 1945, were also on hand for the presentation and luncheon that followed.

Employers are eligible to apply for SHARP if:

- They have no more than 250 employees on site and no more than 500 at all sites corporation-wide,
- They are a high-hazard industry in a single, fixed worksite,
- They have at least one year of operating history, and
- They have a Lost Workday Injury and Illness Incidence Rate and Total Recordable Case Rate below the industry average.

In order to become a member of the SHARP program, a company must (1) Request a full service, comprehensive safety and health visit and correct all the hazards found. (2) Have implemented and maintain a safety and health management system which addresses at least the major elements of OSHA's  
*(Continued on page 3 – See SHARP)*

## STATE ELECTRICAL LAW CHANGES

By Ron Baker, Labor Code  
Enforcement Administrator

**A**ct 1055 of 2003 empowered the Board of Electrical Examiners with the authority to assess civil penalties for violations of the state licensing and code enforcement laws. Following the passage of this Act, the Board of Electrical Examiners promulgated rules and regulations to enact the implementation of this legislation.

After April 1, 2004, any person, firm, or corporation violating the state minimum code standards or any condition of electrical licensure will be subject to a civil money penalty. The Board of Electrical Examiners establishes the minimum code standards for the state. Currently, the minimum state standard for electrical installations, maintenance, or repair is the 2002 version of the National Electrical Code. In addition, any person performing work in the state must first obtain a license issued by the Arkansas Department of Labor. Failure to obtain the appropriate license could result in a civil penalty being assessed against the employee and the employer.

The rules and regulations may be viewed on the Department of Labor website. The web address is: [http://www.arkansas.gov/labor/divisions/electricalexam\\_p1.html](http://www.arkansas.gov/labor/divisions/electricalexam_p1.html) Specific questions can be directed to the Electrical Division by calling 501-682-4548.

## **FEDERAL LABOR DEPARTMENT CONDUCTING DAVIS-BACON PREVAILING WAGE SURVEY IN ARKANSAS**

**T**he U. S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division will be conducting a Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage Statewide (all counties in Arkansas) Survey. This survey will be conducted on building, heavy, highway and residential construction projects that were active January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003.

The regional office anticipates contractors should begin receiving surveys requesting wage data within the next 45 days. Contractors are encouraged to respond and participate in the request for wage data. Wage data provided by contractors determine Davis-Bacon minimum wage rates Arkansas workers receive.

The Davis-Bacon Act, as amended, requires that each contract over \$2,000 to which the United States or the District of Columbia is a party for the construction, alteration, or repair of public buildings or public works shall contain a clause setting forth the minimum wages to be paid to various classes of laborers and mechanics employed under the contract. Under the provisions of the Act, contractors or their subcontractors are to pay workers employed directly upon the site of the work no less than the local prevailing wages and fringe benefits paid on projects of a similar character. The Davis-Bacon Act directs the Secretary of Labor to determine such local prevailing wage rates.

Questions regarding this survey should be directed to:  
**Bobby Mitchell – Wage Analyst**  
**525 Griffin Street – Room 800**  
**Dallas, Texas 75202**  
**Telephone: 972-850-2621**  
**Fax: 972-850-2601**  
**E-Mail:**

**Mitchell.bobby.d@dol.gov**

## **2002 STATE & NATIONWIDE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES STUDIED**

**A** total of 1.4 million injuries and illnesses in private industry required recuperation away from work beyond the day of the incident in 2002, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

The two occupations with the greatest number of such injuries and illnesses – truck drivers and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants – offer examples of the characteristics of these cases. Of the 112,200 injured truck drivers, 93 percent were men. Half of their injuries were sprains or strains, often to the trunk or lower extremities, stemming from overexertion, contacts with objects or equipment, or falls. In contrast, 91 percent of the 79,000 injured nursing aides and related workers were women. They predominantly suffered sprains and strains to their trunk (typically their back), due to overexertion related to lifting or moving patients.

In goods-producing industries such as construction and manufacturing, which make up about 20 percent of private industry employment but account for one-third of injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work, contact with objects and equipment – such as being struck by an object – was the most prevalent event. This is in contrast to service-producing industries, which make up 80 percent of private industry employment and account for two-thirds of the most severe injuries and illnesses. In these industries, overexertion – especially overexertion by lifting – was the most prevalent event.

Men accounted for 65 percent of total cases, which is higher than their share of the hours worked, 59 percent. Of the 372,200 cases reported in the services industry, women made up 64 percent of

these cases, compared with their employment share of 60 percent.

Injuries and illnesses to workers aged 20 to 44 accounted for 64 percent of all injured workers, about the same as their share of hours worked in 2002, 62 percent. Although workers aged 65 and over accounted for only a small portion of total injuries and illnesses, 61 percent of these cases occurred in the services and retail trade industries.

Operators, fabricators and laborers experienced more injuries and illnesses than any other major occupational group (552,900) in 2002. Within this occupation group, 36 percent of these cases occurred in the manufacturing industry.

Employees with one to five years of service with their employer accounted for 37 percent of all injuries and illnesses sustained, while workers with more experience (more than 5 years of service) made up 29 percent of total cases in 2002.

In Arkansas, there were approximately 22,700 injuries and illnesses serious enough to require recuperation away from work, restricted duty at work, or both. This is according to a survey conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sprains and strains accounted for over 44% of the work-related injuries and illnesses that required recuperation away from work in Arkansas in 2002.

Contact with objects and equipment was the leading event for injuries and illnesses with 24.4% for 2002. Overexertion was second, with over 21%. The leading source of injuries and illnesses for 2002 was worker motion or position, with over 21%. The next leading source was floors, walkways and ground surfaces, with over 16%.

Men accounted for 68.5% of the work-related injuries and illnesses in the state in 2002. The age group of 35 to 44 accounted for most of the injuries and illnesses by age group, with over 29%. The age group of 25 to 34 years was  
**(contd. on next page-See 2002)**



## OSHA OFFERS GUIDANCE ON PROTECTING WORKERS AGAINST AVIAN FLU

New safety and health guidance from OSHA alerts workers and employers about the hazards of avian flu and provides practical recommendations on ways to avoid sickness.

“OSHA is very concerned about emerging infectious diseases. Although avian flu primarily affects birds, recent experience in Asia shows there is cause for concern because humans can, in certain cases, be infected,” said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. “We encourage employers and workers who may be exposed to avian flu to take appropriate precautions to prevent illness.”

Cases of avian influenza among birds were reported in February 2004 in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Texas, leading to the destruction of hundred of thousands of birds. Wild birds are the natural hosts, but the disease is highly contagious in birds and can spread to domestic flocks from contaminated farm equipment, soil and dust, animal feed, cages, or even shoes.

OSHA’s guidance provides separate recommendations for farm workers and animal handlers, laboratory workers, medical personnel, food handlers, airline flight crews and travelers. The primary focus is good hygiene, including gloves and hand washing, as well as respiratory protection for those who work with infected animals or individuals.

The guidance also includes links to helpful websites with additional information and a list of technical articles and resources.

For more information, visit OSHA’s website at [www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu./html](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu./html)

### **SHARP** (Contd. from page 1)

Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines, which include:

- ✓Hazard Anticipation and Detection
- ✓Hazard Prevention and Control
- ✓Planning and Evaluation
- ✓Administration and Supervision.

Eleven other companies in Arkansas have reached SHARP status since the inception of the program. Anthony Forest Products was the first presented since the beginning of 2004. Sullivan Steel in Harrisburg, Snyder Industries in Marked Tree, Mauser USA Inc. in Pine Bluff, and Flanders Industries in Fort Smith have all been recognized since for also achieving SHARP status. Flanders Industries also has the distinction of having gone from being, in their words, “one of the worst to one of the best.” This is due to the fact that the company has been selected in the past for site-specific target training because of their higher than average injury and illness rate.

Anthony Forest Products’

employees were very proud of their SHARP status, as evidenced by their comments:

- This makes you feel the company is serious. They want a quality operation and that makes you feel secure about your company. – Russell
- I feel it is a something for everybody. – Mike
- I think it was great, and the credit goes to the employees. – Ronnie
- I think it was alright! – Odell
- I’ve been with them for 15 years. We have come a long way. We never had to wear safety equipment a long time ago! – Shorty

For more information on the SHARP program, contact Clark Thomas at the Arkansas Department of Labor at 501-682-4522.

### **2002** (contd. from page 2)

second, with over 24%. The range of 1 to 5 years in the length of service with an employer had the most injuries and illnesses for the eleventh year in a row. Operators, fabricators, and laborers were the leading occupations for injuries and illnesses in Arkansas for the last eleven years.

For more information on State figures, contact Leon Cornett at the Arkansas Department of Labor at (501) 682-4542.

### **SAFETY NEWS**

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## **THE "GAUNTLET"** **Magic Springs Installs** **World Class Coaster**

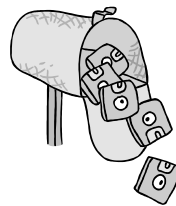
**By Mike Watson, Chief Amusement Ride Inspector**

**T**he Arkansas Department of Labor amusement ride inspectors have been very busy this spring. "Magic Springs and Crystal Falls, located in Hot Springs,

has added another attraction that is guaranteed to take your breath," says Mike Watson, Chief Amusement Ride Inspector.

The inspection process began at groundbreaking and has continued throughout the entire setup process. Testing of the new dual train steel coaster, which began in late March, utilized plastic water containers that simulated riders. A G-force monitor also registered the power of this new suspended looping coaster peaking at a phenomenal 4 G's. The "Gauntlet" passed the final inspection and testing which was completed this month.

Amusement rides in Arkansas are required by state law to be inspected by the Department of Labor. During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, 2,187 rides were inspected at over 250 sites in the state. Department inspectors are trained and certified by the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials, "NAARSO".



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